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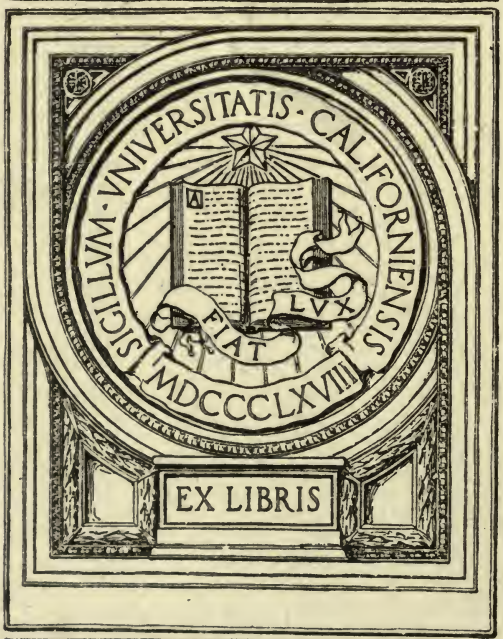

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE OFFICE OF

RECORDER *of* COOK COUNTY

ILLINOIS

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ADMINISTRATION

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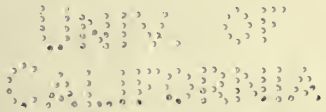

REPORT PREPARED FOR THE

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THE MUNICIPAL COURT ACTS

TWO RELATED PROPOSITIONS UPON WHICH THE VOTERS OF CHICAGO WILL BE ASKED TO PASS JUDGMENT, AT THE ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 7

Vote NO

A REPORT PREPARED BY THE

CHICAGO BUREAU OF PUBLIC EFFICIENCY

" Pub. no. 8

sociology.

OCTOBER 30, 1911

CHICAGO BUREAU
OF
PUBLIC EFFICIENCY

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INTRODUCTION

The accompanying statement is designed to give the voters of Chicago information concerning the Municipal Court Acts that are to be submitted to a referendum vote on November 7. Its publication is authorized by the executive committee of the Chicago Bureau of Public Efficiency, in line with the general purpose of the Bureau to furnish the public with exact information regarding local governing agencies, of which the Municipal Court is one.

CHICAGO BUREAU OF PUBLIC EFFICIENCY,

HERBERT R, SANDS,

Director.

Chicago, October 30, 1911.

THE MUNICIPAL COURT ACTS.

TWO RELATED PROPOSITIONS UPON WHICH THE VOTERS OF CHICAGO WILL BE ASKED TO PASS JUDGMENT AT THE ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 7.

At its last regular session, the General Assembly of Illinois passed two laws relating to the Municipal Court of Chicago, which laws, under the constitution of the state, must receive the approval of the people of Chicago on a referendum vote before they can become effective. The titles of these acts as they will appear upon the ballot to be voted at the election of November 7 do not fully indicate their contents. Nor do the measures appear to be well understood by the public that will be asked to pronounce judgment upon them through a referendum vote.

These acts are both salary boosting measures. Their main purpose, that of advancing salaries, is concealed as much as possible.

One of the acts provides for bringing the employes of the Municipal Court under civil service, which is highly desirable. But it also provides for heavy salary increases for judges of the Municipal Court and for deputy bailiffs. The Chief Justice is raised from $7,500 to $10,000 a year and the Associate Judges from $6,000 to $9,000 each.

The other act provides for several changes in the practice and procedure of the Municipal Court. It carries the same salary increases as does the first act and in addition raises to $9,000 and $9,660, respectively, the salaries of the chief clerk and the chief bailiff. It also shortens somewhat the office hours of the chief clerk and the chief bailiff and provides for longer vacations for the judges.

It may be well to ask where the money for these additional salary expenditures is to come from? It is the city treasury, the revenues of which cannot be increased, that must bear the burden. The city is without adequate funds now for the satisfactory performance of all its functions. What departments are to be further crippled in order to provide more money for Municipal Court payrolls?

The following tabular statement shows the absolute salary advances required, the probable amount of the other advances to follow the adoption of the acts, and the possible advances authorized:

Mandatory Increases—		Amount of Advance.
1 Chief Justice		$ 2,500
27 Associate Judges—$3,000 each		81,000
1 Chief Clerk		3,000
1 Chief Bailiff		3,660
Total Mandatory Increases		$ 90,160
New Positions Created—		
1 Deputy Bailiff	$2,500	
2 Deputy Bailiffs—$2,000 each	4,000	
		6,500
Probable Increases Under Amended Acts—		
58 Deputy Bailiffs drawing present maximum of $1,500, if advanced to new maximum of $2,000, $500 each		29,000
Total probable increases if Acts are adopted		$125,660
Other possible increases authorized, computed on basis of 1911 budget—		
49 Bailiffs at $2,000, now paid $1,260	$36,260	
2 Bailiffs at $2,000, now paid $1,000	2,000	
1 Bailiff at $2,000, now paid $1,320	680	
1 Bailiff at $2,000, now paid $900	1,100	40,040
Total possible increases		$165,700

It is altogether improbable, of course, that all the deputy bailiffs would be given the maximum salary of $2,000 each. But as a part of the general salary raising process, deputies drawing

less than the present maximum doubtless would be given some advances, so that the actual total probable increases, while less than the possible total of $165,700, would be considerably in excess of the figures of total probable increases given in the total above, $125,660.

Under the present law the City Council, as the appropriating body for the municipality, has the power to increase the salaries of the judges and of the chief clerk and chief bailiff, subject to the limitation that the salary of a Municipal Court judge shall not exceed that of a Circuit judge—$10,000—and that the chief bailiff and chief clerk shall not be paid more than an associate judge. In that they force larger salaries of fixed amount upon the city by arbitrary act of the Legislature, these measures are repugnant to the principle of municipal home rule.

Before the meeting of the General Assembly in its last regular session a movement was started to improve the judiciary of this community by the elimination of partisan politics in the selection of judges. As a step to this end a bill was drafted providing for a separate judicial ballot, devoid of party columns and party designations. This bill was given scant consideration by the Legislature, but the measures were passed increasing the salaries of judges and officers of the Municipal Court. The consideration of salary increases for judges should await the passage of legislation changing methods of nomination and election, so as to insure selection on the grounds of personal fitness, rather than for reasons of political partisanship.

The Chicago Bureau of Public Efficiency does not believe that the good features of these acts suffice to offset their faults. The Civil Service Reform Associations have already condemned the second act. The Chicago Bureau of Public Efficiency believes that both acts should be defeated. The Legislature should then

be asked to pass a new bill, confined to the one subject, for bring ing employes of the Municipal Court under civil service. Th movement should be revived, also, to secure a change in th method of nominating and electing judges with the view of elim inating partisanship.

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THE WATER WORKS SYSTEM

OF THE

CITY OF CHICAGO

REPORT OF DABNEY H. MAURY

TO THE

CHICAGO COMMISSION ON CITY EXPENDITURES

PUBLISHED BY THE

CHICAGO BUREAU OF PUBLIC EFFICIENCY

DECEMBER, 1911

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